

(Unapproved Minutes)

**TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD  
WETHERSFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH  
DISABILITIES  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY MARCH 19, 2008**

**I. INTRODUCTIONS**

Present: Joan Haines, Vice Chairman  
Jim Grise  
Christine Taylor  
Kathleen Sullivan

Liaison: Natalie Morrison, Parks and Recreation Department

Excused: Carol Keenan

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**III. MINUTES of the September 20, 2006 meeting**

**A MOTION was made by Christine Taylor to accept the minutes of the January 16, 2008 meeting with changes. Seconded by Joan Haines. All were in favor, MOTION CARRIED.**

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Group Home Visits**

A copy of the list of Group Homes along with corresponding liaisons will be provided at the next meeting. Wethersfield Group Homes are made aware of all the programs held by the Recreation Department and many of them do actively participate.

**B. Seniors**

The Seniors are having an Emergency Preparedness Workshop on May 8, 2008 at the Community Center from 1:00-3:00 p.m. This will provide seniors and their caregivers information on what to do and who to call in case of an emergency. Christine suggested that the WACPD hold the same type of workshop geared to people with disabilities. Christine said she would talk to Judy Torpey about the best way to coordinate a program for the disabled. Joan said she would discuss it with Carol Keenan.

A Vet Express van is coming from the federal government to the Community Center on April 8, 2008 from 9:00-12:00 p.m. Veterans and or their widows or widowers are invited to talk to representatives about any questions they might have.

The CRT program is ending soon. This program helps residents pay for their heating bill. You have until May 1, 2008 to sign up. Assistance is also available through Operation Fuel. Training is being held for people volunteering for the Friendly Shoppers, Friendly Drivers and Friendly Visitors Programs on April 9, 2008 at the Town Hall. Contact Social Services for more information. The Tax Relief Programs for renters is starting May 15<sup>th</sup> – September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Christine Taylor handed out information on disability and medical decision-making called Ethical Issues in Policies and Planning. There are seven Friday morning workshops April 11<sup>th</sup> – June 27<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-2:00 p.m. at Central Connecticut State University.

There is a Disability Convention and Expo Saturday September 27<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-4:00 p.m. at the Connecticut Expo Center in Hartford.

### **C. Parks and Recreation**

The parents of Special Olympic athletes held a very successful dinner dance and auction on February 1, 2008 raising about \$7,000. All proceeds go towards the Special Olympic Programs. Five athletes and two partners took part in a snow-shoeing competition in March. One athlete qualified to submit his application for the National Competition in Idaho in 2009. The Soccer and Track and Field Programs started in March.

Thanks to the Wethersfield Police Officers and the Special Olympic Coaches for participating in the Penguin Plunge in February at Crystal Lake in Middletown to raise money for Special Olympics Programs.

Renovations at the Community Center have begun and are scheduled to be completed by June.

### **D. Transportation/Dial-A-Ride**

No updates since the January Transportation Meeting.

**E. Update on Resource Booklet**

More Resource Booklets will be printed. The Resource Booklet is also available on the Town's website and at the library.

There was a discussion about updating areas of the Resource Booklet and printing some copies in large print. Jim said he would get prices on printing additional copies of the Resource Booklet.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

The summer picnic will be held July 9, 2008 so mark your calendars!

**VI. OTHER**

There is no April meeting. The next meeting will be held May 21, 2008.

**A MOTION was made by Kathleen Sullivan to adjourn. Seconded by Jim Grise. All were in favor, MOTION CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen A. Knapp  
Recording Secretary